

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 49

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Don Maitz slideshow replete with tidbits

Renowned pirate artist Don Maitz opened Minicon's programming with a fascinating slideshow full of stories about his work and interesting pirate facts. If there was a theme to his presentation, it's that each picture tells a story.

- ◆ Often only Don knows the full story behind an illustration, such as the one in which the pirates who've just taken a ship are calmly chatting with the crew while their captain is held at swordpoint. The secret? They're interviewing the crew about their captain's character in order to determine his fate.
- ◆ Don's original design for Captain Morgan was based as much as possible on the historical Henry Morgan, including the costume. He was later directed to use a more eye-catching costume from a later period, with bright red dyes, but felt guilty about it the whole time.
- ◆ Puns feature in many of Don's titles, sometimes with triple meanings. He finds it hard to resist them with female pirates, as in "Pirates Abroad" and "Hands Off My Chest".
- ◆ One of Don's paintings, depicting a marooned, half-naked pirate clutching a musket, was a modification of a drawing from life of 'a buck-naked guy'. Don said that using this drawing as his source allowed for a more detailed musculature than he would have been able to create from scratch.
- ◆ The painting "Bird's Eye View" was originally created for a rum product featuring coconut. Don was asked to draw coconuts dangling from the *ends* of the branches of a palm tree. He refused to pervert nature in this way, but compromised by drawing a bouncing coconut which he later removed from the work for display purposes.

It's the Bob Tucker Memorial 'Smooth'

Come one, come all to the Saloon at **9p.m. Saturday**, and share in a fine 12-year-old Irish single malt.

Hallmarks of a Half Day

Minicon 50 will feature a full Thursday of conning, but what did we get this year?

- ◆ People, but not as many as Mincon usually consists of. At the close of registration Thursday night, the count was...
Warm bodies: 184
Total registration: 434
So it's safe to say things will be getting busier!
- ◆ People playing games in the hospitality area and Garden Court.
- ◆ Surprisingly early signage, including the giant program charts and papered up areas for posting.
- ◆ Music wafting through the Grand Ballroom Foyer. At one point your editor walked past the open music room and saw four guitarists going at it.
- ◆ The consuite and bar met their soft goal of opening by 8, earlier than in many a year. The faux taco fixings were a great success. The consuite then proceeded to open at noon Friday—not at 4, as the pocket program would have it, nor in the morning, as some were hoping.

Programming corrections

- ◆ The **Hugo nominees** will be announced at **2:30 Saturday** in the Edina room, not 3:30 as previously printed.
- ◆ **Why Fairy Tales Are for Adults Again** is scheduled for **10a.m. Sat**, not 10p.m. as stated in the program book.
- ◆ **Catherynne Valente** will be reading and signing at **10a.m. Saturday** in **Veranda 5/6**.

Gaming trivia with Matt McMillan:

"Who invented Magic the Gathering, and what other games has he created?
Hint: Some are in my Game Library."
(Answer on reverse side.)

Do you believe in Magic?

Gaming head Matt M. reports that Level Up Games has donated pack prizes for Minicon's Magic the Gathering events. (One presumes booster packs, not pack animals.) He and his staff will be available and willing to teach new players all weekend.

Trivia answer: Magic the Gathering was invented by mathematics professor Richard Garfield. Among other games, Prof. Garfield designed Robo-Rally, The Great Dalmuti, and the CCGs Vampire: The Eternal Struggle, Netrunner, and BattleTech.

A neo's eye view of Minicon 48

The following idiosyncratic screed appeared in your editor's box last year, but he was unable to print it for lack of space. Enjoy this account of Minicon from an enthusiastic first-time attendee!

Little did I know what I was getting myself into when I agreed to help a friend with her business here at Mini-Con 48. From the first friendly face greeting me at registration to the colorful people I have met in the dealer room, all have been willing to share their amazing stories. I am new to Con (NOOB) and have quite a lot to learn (young Padawan). My observation so far has led me to believe that all who participate should come with an open mind. That alone will lead anyone on a path to discover the many hidden nooks (not electronic books) and krannies (not grannies or trannies) that may be just beyond the reach of eyes with blinders on (Muggle). The magic that comes, not only from the cards in the game room, extends well beyond that of the people who share in their love of this gathering. The numerous invites I have received to partake in after hours festivities are flattering. They also prove the fun loving dedication to community. The (possible illusion of) organization has been nothing short of user friendly. I want to thank all those who are, and continue to be amazing teachers to those of us who come wanting to belong and learn all the things that have made Mini-Con what it is.

—The New Girl

Medallion Hunt Results

10. This penny's clue was a string of countries, connected by dots: "Canada.Burundi.Niger.Chad.Rwanda.Eritrea.Latvia.Lesotho.Vietnam". The idea is to see periods between words and, like a good child of the Information Age, think immediately of top level country domains. Each country has a two letter domain, and stringing them together yields: 'ca.bi.ne.td.rw.er.lv.ls.vn'. Do you look at this and see 'Cabinet drawer, level seven'? **Joe P.** did! Because the Cluemeister sent copies of Issue 1 ahead of himself, this led to a Medallion Hunt first: a hunter finding a medallion before it was hidden! Joe accomplished this by leaving a pair of notes, one in each pull-out drawer in the

seventh floor foyer cabinet: "I'll be back for the penny later. -Joe." He later pointed out that for someone to find such a note would not be the world's least amusing thing.

TTB. Joe also managed to secure this one by rolling a tub of blue putty into a ball and bouncing it! Go figure.

CLUES: ROUND 2

2. Because of his emotional state, Chairy is not his usual color.

3. The Cluemeister has used this hiding place before... but they moved it!

4. By this year's theme, of course, I mean the Medallion Hunt's secret theme, not the convention's.

6. That's six semi-circles—half brown and half gray.

8. Attached to the underside of black webbing.

15.

12	3	11
10	4	5
7	8	2
6	9	1

20. It's verbal/dimensional analysis including Dalton by another name! Also see Medallion 4.

B1. Clustered in a five by five square.

MAU. Ironically, copper and zinc are not ferromagnetic.

TTB. Time to Bounce! Come to the BBT Office and try it!

Hours of Redemption:

Your next three opportunities to redeem medallions and attempt challenges will be: **9:30p.m. – 10:30p.m.**

Fri. • 1a.m. - 2a.m. Sat • 10a.m. – 11a.m. Sat.

Krahn 2a.m. Pulse Check

For Minicon 49's half day, we present half the pulse checkers at half as many hours after midnight.

2 overlooking the pool + 8 gaming on the bar patio + 10 in the consuite bar + 3 in adjoining room + At least 4 roaming around + Unknown number in consuite + Your humble roving reporter = At least 28 people awake and gaming, drinking, and/or conversing in public Minicon space at 2 a.m. Friday.

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box on the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

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